

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 36

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gay G. Kernan

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY TO STUDY THE
12 PRACTICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF ADDING INCREMENTAL INCREASES TO
13 SCHOOL DAYS AND THE EFFECT OF THOSE INCREASES ON STUDENT
14 ACHIEVEMENT AND TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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16 WHEREAS, the Public School Code requires that each school
17 district provide a minimum number of instructional days per
18 school year, adjusted according to grade level; and

19 WHEREAS, the Public School Code provides an equivalence
20 between the minimum number of instructional days and hours; and

21 WHEREAS, the Public School Code allows school districts to
22 adopt variable school calendars; and

23 WHEREAS, local school boards are authorized to approve
24 individual school calendars and determine school policy in
25 general; and

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1 WHEREAS, some schools have added small increments of time
2 to individual school days to compensate for time lost due to
3 inclement weather, to allow early dismissal on one day of the
4 week or to provide time for teacher professional development
5 and other activities; and

6 WHEREAS, the public education department notes that it is
7 questionable whether students receive the benefit of
8 instructional hours with such incremental increases;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of education
11 accountability, in collaboration with the public education
12 department, public school districts and charter schools, be
13 requested to study the practice of increasing the length of the
14 school day in small increments to determine how common or
15 widespread the practice is; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also examine the
17 effect of this practice on professional development for
18 teachers and learning time and achievement of students; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of education
20 accountability report its findings and recommendations, if any,
21 to the legislative education study committee before September
22 30, 2009; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the director of the office of education
25 accountability, the secretary of public education and the

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1 director of the legislative education study committee.

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